Chapter 3 — Hazardous Waste Container Management

HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTAINERS [1]

A hazardous waste container is a device in which hazardous waste can be stored, treated, transported, recycled, or disposed of, and that is designed to be portable whether it is empty or full. Hazardous waste containers range in size. Common hazardous waste containers are 5-gallon buckets, 30-gallon carboys, and 55-gallon drums.

HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTAINER MANAGEMENT [2]

As a generator you must properly manage your containers that store hazardous waste. The following is a summary of the requirements for managing containers:

- ✓ Be sure your containers are in good condition and not leaking.
- ✓ Immediately transfer hazardous waste from any containers that are leaking or in poor condition to containers that are in good condition.
- ✓ Use containers made of materials that are compatible with the hazardous waste that will be stored in them.
- ✓ Keep containers closed except when adding or removing hazardous waste.
- ✓ Handle containers in a manner that prevents leakage, spillage, or rupture.
- ✓ Inspect containers daily or weekly for leaks, deterioration and proper labeling. Maintain an inspection log. **NOTE:** It is recommended that you inspect your containers daily; however, in certain situations weekly inspections may be sufficient. An example weekly inspection checklist is provided under Exhibit T.
- ✓ If you are a large quantity generator, store containers with ignitable or reactive waste at least 50 feet from the property line.
- ✓ Maintain adequate isle space and keep incompatible wastes separated by distance or using a berm, dike or other types of secondary containment.
- ✓ Do not use an unwashed container that previously contained an incompatible waste.
- ✓ Properly label all containers (see Chapter 4 for proper labeling requirements).
- ✓ Refer to Appendix AA in this manual for an informative State DTSC fact sheet regarding contaminated containers management in California.

EMPTY CONTAINER MANAGEMENT [3]

The California regulations define an empty container based upon the type of material held by the container:

I. **Containers Holding Materials That Can Be Poured**
If you have containers that held a material that can be readily poured, all material must be removed by any practical means (including draining, pouring, pumping, or aspirating) before the container can be considered empty. You need to provide sufficient time for the container to drain such that if an inspector was to invert your container, only a few drops might drip out. A continuous stream of liquid would be considered a violation.

II. **Containers Holding Materials That Cannot Be Poured**
If you have containers that held materials that cannot be poured, you need to make sure that no hazardous material remains in the container. You must use

feasible methods such as scraping and chipping, but not rinsing to ensure the container is empty. This standard applies to materials that pour slowly or don't pour at all from the container, including, but not limited to, viscous materials, solids, which have "caked up" inside the container, and sludges that will not pour readily from the container.

III. **Containers Holding Acute or Extremely Hazardous Waste**

If you have containers that held acute or extremely hazardous wastes, they must be triple- rinsed using a solvent capable of removing the material in order to be considered empty. You may also use another method of cleaning that is equivalent to triple rinsing. Please keep in mind those activities such as rinsing or processes such as crushing, shredding, grinding, or puncturing may be considered treatment. Treatment requires that additional standards and regulations be complied with.

EMPTY CONTAINER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES [4]

Even after completely draining your containers, you cannot just throw your empty containers in the trash. They must be managed appropriately.

I. **Empty Containers Greater Than Five Gallons**

If you have empty containers that are greater than five gallons by volume **you must within in one year** manage them by one or more of the following methods:

- ✓ Reclaim the container's scrap value onsite;
- ✓ Send the container to a person who reclaims the container's scrap value;
- ✓ Recondition or remanufacture the container onsite; or
- ✓ Ship the container to a person who reconditions or remanufactures the container.
- ✓ Keep a record as to where the empty container has been shipped.
- ✓ Mark the container with the date it was emptied and it is highly recommended to mark the container as "empty".

II. **Empty Containers Five Gallons or Less**

If you have empty containers that are five gallons or less by volume you must manage them by using one of the methods described above or by disposing of the container at an appropriate solid waste facility. The safe thing to do is to rinse containers before disposal. An "appropriate solid waste facility" is one that can accept empty containers.

REFERENCES:

1. Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 66260.10
2. Title 22, CCR Sections 66265.170 to 66265.178; and Section 66262.34
3. Title 22, CCR Section 66261.7
4. Title 22, CCR Section 66261.7